

# TEMLON

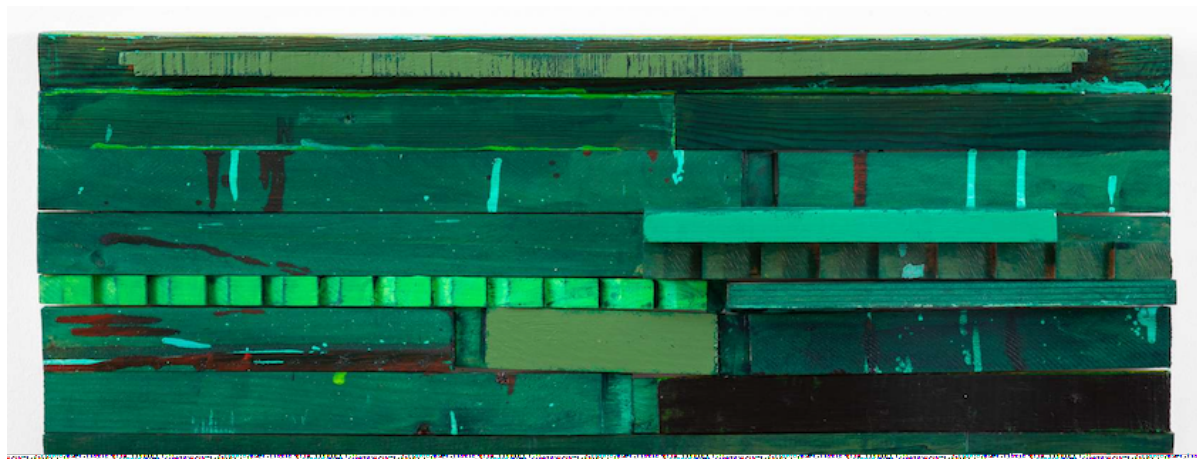


Press release

16 May 2024

**DANIEL DEZEUZE**

**20 June - 20 July 2024**



Daniel Dezeuze, *Mesoamerica VII*, 2022, painted wood, 28 × 71.5 × 9 cm © Adrien Millot

Templon Bruxelles is closing the season with an exhibition of work by one of the leading lights of the French Supports/Surfaces movement: Daniel Dezeuze. The 82-year-old artist is showing his latest work - a series of sculptures, paintings, drawings and installations - inspired by his discovery of nomad cultures outside Europe.

Daniel Dezeuze has spent close to fifty years working on deconstructing the notion of the painting. A theorist and founding member of the avant-garde Supports/Surfaces movement, he turned his back on the canvas from its outset. He flips stretchers against the wall, playing with empty spaces and three-dimensionality to push the boundaries of artistic traditions and explore the traditional media and materials of painting in his quest to delve into the role and history of its practice.

The exhibition shines the light on one of the artist's many facets with a personal reflection inspired by his travels in the 1960s in Mexico and his discovery of Maya architecture. He makes mural assemblages from offcuts of painted wood in a nod to this foundational experience in the jungle surrounded by the ghosts of past civilisations. These pieces rub shoulders with a series of 'shields' evoking the tensions between nature and culture, indigenous communities and colonisers. His remarkable journey has led him to experiment with what are seen as basic materials, wood, metal gauze, net and fabric, as well as their subtle combination, offering a disquieting examination of the boundaries between art and crafts, untouched nature and the tamed world, and of the fragility of civilisations and modernity.

The new exhibition also features a collection of drawings, a jungle of flowers, insects, mosquitoes and snails. Flirting with abstraction, the collection depicts a nature that is as delicate and it is untameable, highlighting the artist's obsession with "grasping the ungraspable."

Born in 1942 in Alès, Daniel Dezeuze lives and works in the southern French port town of Sète. His work has been widely exhibited since the 1970s in France and internationally. His oeuvre has heavily influenced new generations of European painters, and features in numerous public collections, including at the Centre Pompidou, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris and Musée d'Art Contemporain (MAC) in Marseille. In 2017 the Musée de Grenoble held a retrospective of his art while the FRAC Occitanie in Montpellier held an exhibition of his drawings in 2015. MAMAC in Nice (2012), Centrale for Contemporary Art in Brussels (2009) and the Musée Fabre in Montpellier (2009) have also shown his work. He exhibited his entire oeuvre at the Carré d'Art in Nîmes in 1998 and the Musée Paul Valéry in Sète in 2008.

His art has featured in a wide variety of group exhibitions: at Collection Lambert in Avignon in 2022, FRAC Poitou-Charentes in 2020, Musée de l'Abbaye Sainte-Croix in Les Sables d'Olonne (MASC) and MOCAD in Detroit, USA, in 2019, Carré d'Art in Nîmes in 2017, Abattoirs in Toulouse in 2015, Villa Datris in L'Isle sur la Sorgue, Musée du Louvre-Lens and Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain in Strasbourg in 2014, Musée Picasso, Antibes and Centre Pompidou – Metz in 2013, MAMAC in Nice in 2012, Centrale Electrique in Brussels, Belgium, in 2009 and Fundació Suñol in Barcelona, Spain, in 2007. Daniel Dezeuze has been represented by Galerie Templon since 1999.

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